

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

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Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer, and please amend claims 1 and 6-8 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A golf club comprising a hollow golf club head which has a face portion for striking a golf ball, a crown portion connected to the face portion, and a sole portion connected to the face portion, wherein:

a first region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of a total surface area of the crown portion is formed by a first outer shell member in a region of the crown portion which is located along a connecting edge of the crown portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge, and a second region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the sole portion is formed by a second outer shell member in a region of the sole portion which is located along a connecting edge of the sole portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge of the sole portion, the first outer shell member structured by a carbon fiber reinforced plastic material and the second outer shell member structured by a metal alloy; and

when a product of an elastic modulus of the first outer shell member in a direction in which a striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the first outer shell member in the first region is taken as a first equivalent rigidity and a product of an elastic modulus of the second outer shell member in the direction in which the striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the second outer shell member in the second region is taken as a second equivalent rigidity, a ratio of either the lower of the first

equivalent rigidity and the second equivalent rigidity to the higher is equal to or less than 0.75.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) A method of designing a hollow golf club head which has a face portion for striking a golf ball, a crown portion connected to the face portion, and a sole portion connected to the face portion, wherein:

a first region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the crown portion is formed by a first outer shell member in a region of the crown portion which is located along a connecting edge of the crown portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge; a second region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the sole portion is formed by a second outer shell member in a region of the sole portion which is located along a connecting edge of the sole portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge of the sole portion; a product of an elastic modulus of the first outer shell member in a direction in which a striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the first outer shell member in the first region is taken as a first equivalent rigidity; and a product of an elastic modulus of the second outer shell member in the direction in which the striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the second outer shell member in the second region is taken as a second equivalent rigidity, the method comprising the steps of:

holding in advance the characteristic data that expresses changes in initial ballistic characteristics of a golf ball caused when either of the first and second equivalent rigidities is changed while the other is kept constant;

using the held characteristic data to set a ratio between the first equivalent rigidity and the second equivalent rigidity in accordance with the initial ballistic characteristics of the golf ball struck by a golfer; and

employing two members that conform to the set ratio as the first and second outer shell members.

4. (Original) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 3, wherein:

said characteristic data is prepared for each of plural head speeds at which golfers strike golf balls; and

said ratio is set according to a head speed.

5. (Original) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 3, wherein:

said characteristic data is prepared for each of plural loft angles; and

said ratio is set according to a loft angle.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 4 or 5, wherein:

a composite material in which a fiber reinforced plastic material is laminated is used for ~~either or both of said first and second outer shell members~~said first outer shell member and a metal alloy for said second outer shell member; and

said ratio is established by regulating an orientation angle of the composite material.

7. (Currently Amended) A golf club comprising a hollow golf club head which has a face portion for striking a golf ball, a crown portion connected to the face portion,

and a sole portion connected to the face portion, the golf club being included among a series of golf clubs adapted for different head speeds, wherein:

a first region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of a total surface area of the crown portion is formed by a first outer shell member in a region of the crown portion which is located along a connecting edge of the crown portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge, and a second region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of a total surface area of the sole portion is formed by a second outer shell member in a region of the sole portion which is located along a connecting edge of the sole portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge of the sole portion;

when a product of an elastic modulus of the first outer shell member in a direction in which a striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the first outer shell member in the first region is taken as a first equivalent rigidity and a product of an elastic modulus of the second outer shell member in the direction in which the striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the second outer shell member in the second region is taken as a second equivalent rigidity, a ratio of either the lower of the first equivalent rigidity and the second equivalent rigidity to the higher is equal to or less than 0.75; and

a composite material in which a fiber reinforced plastic is laminated is used for either or both of the first and second outer shell members, having an orientation angle of fibers thereof regulated according to a head speed so as to establish said ratio.

8. (Currently Amended) A golf club comprising a hollow golf club head which has a face portion for striking a golf ball, a crown portion connected to the face portion, and a sole portion connected to the face portion, the golf club being included among a series of golf clubs with different loft angles, wherein:

a first region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of a total surface area of the crown portion is formed by a first outer shell member in a region of the crown portion which is located along a connecting edge of the crown portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge, and a second region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of a total surface area of the sole portion is formed by a second outer shell member in a region of the sole portion which is located along a connecting edge of the sole portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge of the sole portion;

when a product of an elastic modulus of the first outer shell member in a direction in which a striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the first outer shell member in the first region is taken as a first equivalent rigidity and a product of an elastic modulus of the second outer shell member in the direction in which the striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the second outer shell member in the second region is taken as a second equivalent rigidity, a ratio of either the lower of the first equivalent rigidity and the second equivalent rigidity to the higher is equal to or less than 0.75; and

a composite material in which a fiber reinforced plastic is laminated is used for either or both of the first and second outer shell members, having an

orientation angle of fibers thereof regulated according to a loft angle of the golf club so as to establish said ratio.